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ON TAP

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REFLECTION ON 2010

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, *On Tap* would like to look back at a few highlights from 2010:

The Wells Project

In February, TCWD hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony at the wells site for the Rose and Lang Wells Treatment Plant project. In addition to a great turnout despite the rainy weather, one of the highlights of the event came when District Board President Michael Safranski accepted a Certificate of Recognition signed by County of Orange Supervisor Pat Bates for the District's dedication to water conservation and the protection of the local natural water resources through the Wells Treatment Plant project.

The wells project is currently nearing completion, and is on target for total completion after the first of the New Year. At the time of this writing, a majority of the exterior work is complete, including the facility wall. TCWD appreciates all of the hard work of everyone involved in making this project a reality. A special thanks is in order for the support, interest, and patience of the Canyon residents who live nearby the wells.

District Functions

Also, this year saw two District public outreach functions that proved to be a great success. In May, the Annual Water Awareness Open House was attended by nearly two hundred customers and local residents. Many of the highlights from the day included custom made presentations that highlight the work TCWD does to preserve and manage our precious water resources, the different types of

heavy vehicles used by District operators to do their jobs, and representatives from the Orange County Sheriff's Department and Orange County Fire Authority.

In October, TCWD hosted a California Friendly Landscape Training Workshop at the Main Office. The Metropolitan Water District designed workshop covered topics that ranged from the different types of residential irrigation system designs, how to determine what types of soils best serve specific plants, and the ideal garden theme to enhance one's home. The workshop ended with a tour of the Main Office's California-Friendly garden. TCWD plans on offering additional workshops similar to this one in 2011.

Water Conservation

This year, TCWD witnessed the continued dedicated efforts made by our customers to conserve water by reducing their overall monthly water consumption. One of the more common questions that Customer Service routinely receives is, "What is the best method to cut back on my monthly usage?"

Many customers explain they routinely turn off the water when they brush their teeth or they are taking shorter showers than ever before, but are unable to see any of the desired effects. While TCWD encourages these, and other, water conservation actions, the biggest savings can be made outside the house. Since up to seventy percent of your monthly water consumption can be for irrigation purposes, the most effective way to see a change is to modify your current irrigation schedule.

WATER EFFICIENT GARDENING TIPS FOR THE WINTER SEASON

As the autumn season closes, it is important to remember to continue to cut back on outdoor watering. By the end of December, plants will need as little as one-third the amount of irrigated water which they needed in the warmer months, and even less if we receive normal rainfall levels this winter.

Most outdoor plants are now continuing to slow their growth rate, which is the opposite of the spring growth phase. To make sure you are applying the adequate quantity of needed water, watch for signs of stress. The typical symptoms of stress in plants and bushes are when the leaves droop or start to turn color, and lawns show stress when grass blades do not pop back up when stepped on. In order to determine if you are applying enough water, check the moisture of the soil three to six inches below the surface. Even in heavy clay soils, the clay remains moist beneath the surface even though the surface appears to be dry. Also, shrubs and trees require about half the water that turf needs.

Most importantly, don't forget to turn off your sprinklers when it rains; there is nothing more wasteful than an irrigation system in operation during the rain. If this presents difficulty, consider installing an automatic rain shut-off device on irrigation system. As a final tip, add to your New Year's Resolution list to change out the irrigation timer battery. These small batteries have a tendency to fail at the most inopportune time, which in turn, could play havoc with your personally designed irrigation schedule.

Finally, remember that we are currently in the Cool Months period of the Conservation Encouragement Rate Program, or what is more commonly known as the tiered rate structure. The Cool Month period began in October and carries through to March. An explanation of the tiered rate structure can be found on the District website at www.tcwd.ca.gov. If you have any questions concerning efficient watering, please contact the Main Office and a District representative will be more than happy to assist you.

BOTTLED WATER PROGRAM

The District Bottled Water Program has run its course. At this time, TCWD has not renewed the contract for bottling water from the local wells.

MAIN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The District Main Office is scheduled to be closed for the observance of the following holidays:

Christmas	December 23 – closed at noon December 24
New Year's	December 30 – closed at noon December 31

Best wishes to all for a happy Holiday Season from the Board and staff of Trabuco Canyon Water District.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on November 17, 2010, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Status update relating to Water Monitoring and Water Conservation efforts
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Groundwater Treatment Facility

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Michael Perea at
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